IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming an inner surface of the channel is hydrophilized.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 2 wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detection element is a filter for particulate sample components.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) The analytical test as claimed in claim 15, wherein the channel is at least partially formed by the carrier, an inert cover and the detection element wherein the cover and detection element are located on the side of the channel that is opposite to the carrier and are arranged adjacent to one another in such a way that the cover is located on the side facing the sample application opening.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 8, wherein the detection element and the cover abut each other so that the capillary liquid transport is not interrupted at the site of contact of detection element and cover.

Claim10 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 9, wherein a flexible inert foil is mounted on the side of the cover that faces the channel which extends over the entire length of the cover, covers the entire width of the capillary channel and is at least partially enclosed between the opposing surfaces of the cover and detection element so that the capillary liquid transport does not break down at the site of contact between the detection element and cover.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Previously presented): Use of an analytical test element as claimed in claim 15 for a determination of an analyte in a liquid, wherein

the test element is contacted with the liquid sample at the edge of the sample application opening, which is interrupted by the notch so that the sample is transported by capillary forces into the channel and wets and penetrates the surface of the detection element specific for the detection of the analyte that faces the channel, and

the liquid sample in the detection element is observed to determine whether changes in the detection element exist, wherein the changes relate to a presence of the analyte in the liquid sample.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended): Analytical test element for a determination of an analyte in a liquid, the test element comprising:

an inert carrier,

a detection element having reagents for the detection reaction of the analyte in the liquid, and

a capillary liquid transport channel, the channel including a sample application opening at one end and a vent opening at the other end, wherein the channel is formed at least partially by the carrier and the detection element and the channel extends in the direction of capillary transport from the sample application opening to at least an edge of the detection element that is nearest to the vent opening, wherein the sample application opening is spatially separated from the detection element and wherein a notch is located in a surface forming the channel at an edge of the test element forming the sample application opening and extends toward the vent opening so that one side of the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening is at least partially discontinuous and a surface opposite to the notch is exposed.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

Claim 18 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detection element comprises reagents for the detection reaction of the target analyte in the sample.

Claim 19 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 3, wherein the detection element contains at least one reagent for a detection reaction of the target analyte in the sample.

Claim 20 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 15, wherein an intermediate layer is present between the carrier and detection element.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a cover and wherein the cover forms at least a portion of the channel.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 20, wherein the intermediate layer is formed to bond the carrier and detection element.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) The analytical test element as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a cover and wherein the intermediate layer is formed to bond the cover and the carrier.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): An analytical test apparatus for a determination of an analyte in a liquid, the apparatus comprising:

an inert carrier, and

a detection element having reagents for the detection reaction of the analyte in the liquid and cooperating with the carrier to form at least part of a channel formed for capillary liquid transport, the channel having a sample application opening at one end and a vent opening at the other end, the channel extending from the sample application opening to at least an edge of the detection element that is nearest to the vent opening, wherein the sample application opening is spatially separated from the detection element and wherein a surface forming the channel includes a notch at the sample application opening and extending toward the vent opening so that one side of the edge is discontinuous.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the channel is hydrophilized.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising an inert cover cooperating with the carrier and the detection element to define at least a portion of the channel.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the cover and the detection element are located on the side of the channel that is opposite the carrier.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the cover and detection element are arranged adjacent to one another so that the cover is positioned on the side facing the sample application opening.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the detection element and the cover abut each other.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a flexible inert foil mounted on the cover and facing the channel.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the foil covers the entire width of the channel and is at least partially enclosed between the opposing surfaces of the cover and the detection element.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): A method for determining an analyte in a liquid sample, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an analytical test element for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the test element comprising an inert carrier, a detection element specific for the detection of the analyte, and a capillary liquid transport channel, the channel including a sample application opening at one end and a vent opening at the other end, wherein the channel is formed at least partially by the carrier and the detection element and extends in the direction of capillary transport from the sample application opening to at least the edge of the detection element that is nearest to the vent opening, wherein the sample application opening is spatially separated from the detection element and wherein a notch is located in a surface forming the channel at the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening and extends toward the vent opening so that one side of the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening is at least partially discontinuous and a surface opposite to the notch is exposed,

contacting the test element with the liquid sample at the edge of the sample application opening, which is interrupted by the notch so that the sample is transported by capillary forces into the channel and wets and penetrates the surface of the detection element that faces the channel, and

observing the liquid sample in the detection element to determine whether changes in the detection element exist following contact with the liquid sample exist, wherein the changes relate to a presence of the analyte in the liquid sample.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of providing at least one reagent in the detection element and conducting an analyte-specific detection reaction with the at least one reagent.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the observing step includes visual observation.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the observing step includes optical observation.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the observing step includes the step of conducting a reflection photometric measurement.